

Ilford will sell ground

ROTHMANS Isthmian League club Ilford, who were convicted by the F.A. during the summer for rule breaches, expect to have sold their Newbury Park ground and pocketed around £53,000 by the end of next month.

They were fined £2,000 by the F.A., had two officials suspended sine die, several others severely censured and lost their F.A. membership. This windfall will enable them to pay this fine and also clear off a £30,000 overdraft.

They hope to move into their new 10 acre site on Fairlop next season but look like facing a long uphill haul this term, having lost most of their star players. Only six of last season's squad remain and they are mainly fringe players.

Hendon have snapped up the experienced Peter Deadman, George Brookes, John Butterfield and Peter Anderson, while John Still and Tony Bass have linked up again with Ted Hardy, this time at Leytonstone. Hardy did a magnificent job at the East London Club after joining them in mid-season by lifting them clear of relegation and looking at his recent signings, better times are on the way for Leytonstone. He paid a substantial fee to Tooting and Mitcham for Ron

Howell, rated the best midfield man in the League and has also strengthened his squad with Dave Lawrence and Keith Elley from Enfield, John Clark ex-Kingstonian, Steve Coventry (Orient and Folkestone) and Mickey Gevaux formerly with Stevenage.

They have had midfield man Dave Metchick on trial and could sign him this week, although Kingstonian are interested in him as a replacement for former Chelsea star Joe Fascione who could sign for Athenian League club Molesey.

It looks as if Crystal Palace will have to wait a long time before they can play striker, Rachid "Spider" Harkouk their £3,000 signing from Athenians Feltham. Harkouk starts a three months county F.A. suspension on September 13 but could face an even longer ban following two sendings off playing for Pinner Gas Social Club in a North Thames Gas Association competition.

Crystal Palace have appealed to the F.A. for the original ban to be lifted as he is now playing for a Football League club, but county official Ron Morgan said: "I have been instructed by my committee to deal with these other sendings off in the usual way and have notified the two referees involved and the Pinner club." The case will be dealt with on September 3rd.